

Message Text

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62

ACTION ITFE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EA-09 DHA-02 ORM-01 SS-15 INSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9953

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, UY

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REFS: A) STATE 097854; B) STATE 103156; C) STATE 242449;

D) MVD 1401; E) MVD 1423; F) MVD 1503; G) MVD 1772;

H) MVD 2720

1. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, AMBASSADOR BROUGHT UP MATTER OF REFUGEES WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO APRIL 28 (REFTEL E) AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER GOU INFORMED US THAT PRESIDENT BORDABERRY HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE RESETTLEMENT HERE FIVE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE FAMILIES (REF-TEL G).

2. SINCE THAT TIME ICEM REP IN URUGUAY WORKED DILIGENTLY WITH GOU AND EMBOFFS MAINTAINED CONTACTS AND ASSISTED HIM IN HIS EFFORTS. THESE REPRESENTATIONS FINALLY RESULTED IN LOCATION OF, AND GOU ACCEPTANCE OF, THREE FAMILIES CONSISTING OF 17 PEOPLE (CASE NUMBERS P76, P87, P88). IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT WHILE GOU HAD ASKED FOR FIVE FAMILIES, WITH NO MORE THAN 2-3 CHILDREN, WHOSE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD WAS EXPERIENCED FISHERMAN, SELECTED CANDIDATES INCLUDED ONLY ONE EXPERIENCED FISHERMAN. HE HAD NINE DEPENDENTS. OTHER CANDIDATES WERE A DIESEL AUTO MECHANIC WITH FIVE DEPENDENTS AND A SINGLE YOUNG MAN WITH LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN FISHING.

3. DESPITE ABOVE, GOU AGREED TO ACCEPT REFUGEES AND TO ASSIST THEM WITH HOUSING AND JOBS WITH STATE-OWNED FISHING FLEET. THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND HOUSING PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THAT

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THE REFUGEES WOULD BE COMING HERE.

4. ON SEPTEMBER 28 ICEM REP ADVISED US THAT HE HAD RECEIVED CABLE SAYING REFUGEES WOULD NOT BE COMING. HE SAID THE APPARENT REASON WAS THAT THE REFUGEES DID NOT WISH TO LEAVE THE UNITED STATES UNLESS SOME COUNTRY WOULD TAKE A LARGE GROUP. THUS, PROBLEM DOES NOT LIE WITH HOST COUNTRY.

5. MISSION SUGGESTS IATF REVIEW WITH ICEM LISTS OF POTENTIAL REFUGEES AND TRY TO MATCH THEM WITH GOU CRITERIA. OTHER LISTS OF JOB SKILLS AND FAMILY MAKEUP COULD ALSO BE FORWARDED. WE PREFER LEAVE MATTER WITH ICEM REP WHO IS EXPERIENCED IN REFUGEE AFFAIRS AND HAS CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION OPEN WITH CONCERNED MINISTRY. WE DO NOT BELIEVE MATTER SHOULD BE RAISED AGAIN WITH GOU AT THIS TIME SINCE WE BELIEVE GOU OFFER STILL OPEN AND REFUGEES THEMSELVES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR NON-RELOCATION HERE.
SIRACUSA

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